Information regarding the instruction of the Hon'ble High Court on conservation of ponds is not available with the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) As per information from Ground Water Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, a total of 51488 ponds have been restored/conserved.

(c) and (d) Government of India has undertaken steps to check depletion in the level of ground water by adopting measures through rain water harvesting and artificial recharge. These include circulation of a Model Bill for enactment of suitable legislation, circulation of manual to formulate area specific schemes, preparation of Master Plan for artificial recharge, constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development, implementation of Central sector schemes for study of artificial recharge to ground water in the country during IX & XI Plans etc.

Dam on Neelam River

†2226. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a project to carry water upto Jhelum river by constructing dam at Neelam river in the illegally occupied territory in Kashmir is being formulated by Pakistan;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that construction work of this project has been assigned to Chinese agencies;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is a step forward to create a new crisis towards security of Indian borders; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. The proposed Neelam-Jhelum Project is situated in Muzaffarabad district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Government are aware of reports that the construction contract of the project has been awarded to a Chinese consortium.

(c) and (d) The Indus Commissioner of the Government of India has asked the Government of Pakistan for an inspection visit to the Neelam Valley. The Government of Pakistan are yet to arrange the visit. Government keep a constant watch on developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Impact of Hyde Act on Nuclear Deal

†2227. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S.A. has passed Hyde Act in recent last years;

(b) if so, whether U.S.A. has passed this act after proposal of 123 agreement under nuclear deal with India;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.